

In This Issue:

Page 3
Work Smarter, Not Harder: Save! You Really, Really Need To Do It

Page 4
Writers of the Month

Page 8
Health and Fitness with Dr. Wayne

Page 10
Bronx Music Teacher Honored at Bronx Community College

Page 11
The Continuing Problem of Police Brutality

Page 13
BCC Awarded \$2.4 Million Grant

Page 19
Poetry Corner

AND MUCH MORE!

Environmental Justice Speaker Peggy M. Shepard Urges Freshmen to Make Things Happen By Taking Action

A bubbling and alert freshmen class packed into Gould Memorial Library Auditorium on February 19, 2009, and listened raptly to environmental justice keynote speaker Peggy M. Shepard when she posed a question to her audience at the Spring Convocation for Freshman: "How will you use your careers to take action" on making neighborhoods, cities, states, and the country better?

A strong believer that each person can make a difference, she urged freshmen to take college seriously and go out into the world and "do what each student can do best." She then acknowledged that most freshmen probably wondered when they graduate what kind of job they will get or will they get a job at all.

Shepard is the executive director of WE ACT for Environmental Justice. WE ACT was New York's first environmental justice organization created to improve environmental health and quality of life in communities of color. She is a recipient of the 10th Annual Heinz Award for the Environment and 2008 Jane Jacobs Medal for Lifetime Achievement. She is a former Democratic district leader, who represented West Harlem from 1985 to 1993, and served as president of the National Women's Political Caucus-Manhattan from 1993 to 1997.

President Carolyn G. Williams underlined Shepard's message when she said to freshmen: "Enrolling in college is

a decision that changes the way you live your life. We live in a new age today. President Obama spoke about change and I quote him, 'Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.' I repeat this because it is the underlying foundation for what we do and for what you have promised yourself. You now have a dream and a goal and the education that you are pursuing will lead you to achieve that goal and to fulfill your dream."

Associate Dean for Student Services Jennifer Misick offered her recipe for freshmen success at the college. "We want you to know that there is nothing impossible about college as long as you bear the following in mind.

"First to be successful, do all things well. Excellence is the key. The price ... hard work, patience and a few sacrifices. Second, to be successful, be thorough. Not only in large things or what is apparent, but thorough in all things.

"To be successful, become a creator rather than a victim. That means you must learn to take action. Become an advocate and change the world on your own terms. Choose how you will use your energy."



Freshman Convocation Environmental Justice Keynote Speaker Peggy M. Shepard

Students and Professors Journey to Canadian Chemistry Facilities

By Dayne Gooden

As the icy tundra of Canada came into view, it set a backdrop for what seemed to be very productive farmlands and icy rivers. This, along with an overcast sky, set the tone for an interesting productive trip to some of Canada's most technologically advanced chemistry facilities. I went along with five classmates, Alex Adu-Gyamfi, Ada Diallo-Bolly, Oneyda Villar, Mahmoud Awawda and Kamel Awanda, and two professors, Dr. Vicki Flaris and Dr. Nicolas Anuku.

On our trip we went to IPEX and SOLMAX two Canadian plastic companies. We also went to IMI, a French government research laboratory, and to McGill University, where I learnt extensively about the chemistry of plastics.

First, we went to IPEX, a plastics company that make water pipes along with other fixture and fittings. They make a vast amount of other products from plastic bottles to ice scrapers. Their most interesting products were pipes made of polyvinyl chloride and other materials that gave it a stretching

characteristic; this type of pipe was said to be suited for any temperate zone because of its elasticity.



We then visited IMI, a French government research laboratory. At this facility there were a large amount of high-tech gadgets which were used to test plastics for properties such as permeability to oxygen, moisture and other elemental analyses. At the lab they were also testing ways of making styrofoam products with less material, which the

chemists explained, would benefit the environment.

After IMI we visited the SOLMAX plastics company. The facility produces enormous geomembranes. These plastics are made from polyethylene and polyvinyl chloride by a process using extrusion and pultrusion. The end product was a very large sheet, multiple levels high. These are used to line man-made fish ponds which stop them from drying out. They are also used to line man-made reservoirs to stop harmful materials from seeping into drinking water.

continued on page 4

Student World Assembly Visits UN Headquarters

On Friday, February 20th, eight members of the BCC chapter of the Student World Assembly (SWA) toured the United Nations headquarters at First Avenue at 46th Street in Manhattan.

Miriam Criado, Larissa Martin, Bineta Dioufu, Norma Collado,

Mohamed Rinaz-Ahamed, Sonia Acosta-Gonzalez, Amadou Diallou, and Andres Uribe were given access to the major public areas of the headquarters, including the General Assembly. The BCC group was especially impressed by an exhibit on the Hiroshima attack and

how it affected the people living there. One student notes, "In my own opinion the nuclear weapon is something terrible for humanity."

continued on page 7

Letters to *The Communicator* Editorial Policy and Disclaimer

The Communicator urges students to respond to articles and editorials found in this newspaper. We also urge you speak out on issues that matter to the college community, as well as your neighborhood, the city, state, nation and world-at-large.

The views expressed in published letters are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the views of *The Communicator*.

- We reserve the right to shorten any letter submitted due to space considerations.
- We reserve the right to refuse publication to any letter due to space considerations, as well as those letters deemed inappropriate because of profane language, non-verification problems and/or slander.
- No letter will be published unless the author submits his or her name, and telephone number.

Submissions should be emailed to *The Communicator* at bcc.communicator@gmail.com.

The Communicator Submission Insertion Dates Spring 2009

If you are interested in having an article, editorial, letter or announcement included in *The Communicator*, it **must** be received by the following dates:

Deadlines

April

Monday, March 16, 2009

May

Monday, April 6, 2009

Please email all submissions to:
rowanandrewdavid@aol.com

Contributors:

Nicole Acosta
Arnold Callwood
Maritza Cruz
Catherine Cudjoe
Gretchen Guerrero
Yessy Herrera
Isaac Marciano
Christopher Minaya
Shaunte Morgan
Beatrice Ray
Carlos Roldan
Toni Ruiz
Anwar Torres

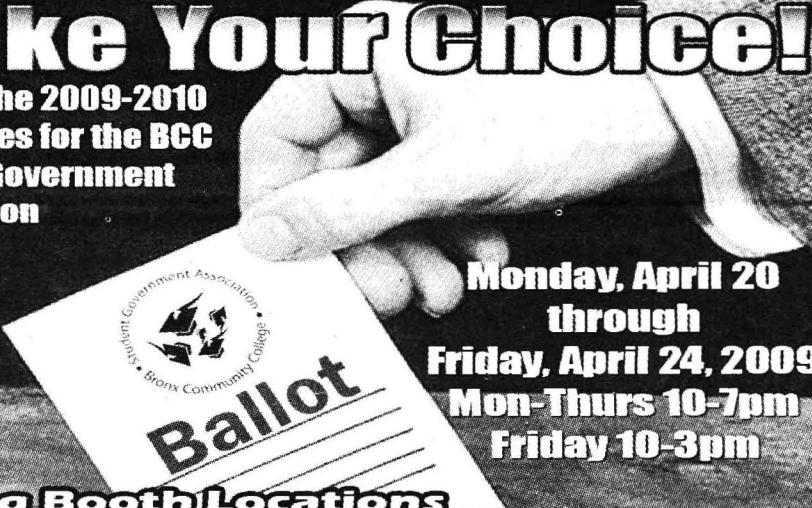
Faculty Advisor
Andrew Rowan

Attention

All Bronx Community College Clubs

**Make sure that your club is represented
in the BCC 2009 Yearbook
with a group picture.**

Contact Charles Sabat
cbigz1405@yahoo.com
or
646-544-6285
to arrange for a photo.



Make Your Choice!

**Vote for the 2009-2010
Candidates for the BCC
Student Government
Association**

**Monday, April 20
through
Friday, April 24, 2009
Mon-Thurs 10-7pm
Friday 10-3pm**

Voting Booth Locations
**@ Colston Hall Lobby (Last Names A-L)
RBSC Lobby (Last Names M-Z)**

**Office of Student Life
For more information,
please call 718-289-5194.
www.bcc.cuny.edu/studentlife**

**Join
The Communicator
Team!**

Cover campus news events
Explore local, state, national and global stories
Put your finger on the pulse of the BCC community

The Communicator is looking for
Writers • Photographers • Advertising representatives

Become part of our time, and join *The Communicator* today!

Contact us at 718.289.5314 to schedule an appointment.

Outside BCC

Work Smarter, Not Harder: Save! You Really, Really Need To Do It

By Arnold Callwood

Word on Wall Street, the pages of the varied financial news, and on the mouths of economics is that we are currently in a recession, and to add insult to injury we have been in one for the better part of a decade or longer. Up until a few months ago, the news media had overwhelmed us with crystal ball predictions of various financial failures looming on the darkest of horizons, if we didn't mend the ways of our wreck-less spending habits. They foretold of an economic disaster of such epic proportions, that it could very well trigger a devastating economic trauma for many of us in the United States likely on par with the Great Depression of the early 20th century, if not worse. Those claims were so constant and steady, that eventually the situation was soon being described as a possible threat to global peace and economic stability on par with that of international terrorism. Can you believe that?

Journalists looking to find out the story behind these looming disasters, soon found a number of culprits, but what turned out to be the root of the problem was, for a lack of better wording, us. Many of us eager to consume goods and services well beyond our means, and not save money for future use made our current economic crisis happen. I say this fully aware that I'm not an economics major, or even a hobby economist, but even I know when more people are spending money, then are saving it, eventually even the deepest pockets are going to pan out empty.

Folks, many of us really have got to get our acts together because even the big name banks are broke and the consequences of failure are too high. I won't name names. Honestly, there's no need to when you already know who and you can turn on the evening news to refresh your memory. Saving money is extremely important, almost as important as mastering reading, and writing in the English language in this country. Saving, much like getting an education, is a means of empowerment, to tool of independence, and ultimately being able to put yourself in a position where you can build wealth. Not so much to get rich, but to be able to better provide for yourself, your family, and maintain your place in the middle class.

On the subject of saving, I know many will have to learn how to crawl, before they can walk. If you make a regular habit of cashing your checks, please I'm begging you, stop and think about what you're doing. Not only do you lose money to the check cashiers in processing fees, that very same check you so casually cash could be the one to help open yourself a savings account, and put you on the path to financial inde-

pendence and empowerment. Like a lot of you, banks right now have me a little weary. You know what, I'm lying there, the history of banks in America has always

non-profit organizations. Banks service customers, credit unions serve their members. Banks are usually owned by investors whom the banker works to make money for from customers.

Credit unions however, are owned in part by their members and exist to work for its membership. That means while the profits a bank makes goes to the investors, as credit unions are non-profit institutions, profits made after paying the necessary operating expenses are used to make available to members loans with low interest rates, and generate higher dividends to the members. In short, banks own your money when you have an account with them, and will do with it whatever they please. With credit unions, you're the shareholder, and the credit union must serve the best interests of its members.

made me distrustful of them, but I learned, much like the oil rich Arab sheiks of the near east, that I can't hide my money in my bed forever. Fortunately, there is an alternative to banking institutions in the form of your local credit union.

Now, I suppose you're asking, if banks and credit unions hold money, and make loans, what differences could there be between them. Well, banks and credit unions differ in several ways, first of which being that banks are a business while credit unions are usually

Not bad so far, huh? Now, I suppose you're wondering who protects the money they hold. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insures deposits at banking institutions, I'm sure that you've heard the name come up several times already. State and Federal chartered credit unions however are insured by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA). Now much like the FDIC, funds protected by the NCUA are insured by the government, and the government uses your tax dollars

to back the money the varied banks and credit unions hold. However, unlike the FDIC, the NCUA has never had to use taxpayers money, i.e., a credit union has yet to fail and require government funds to repay its members. You can't say the same about banks, now can you? That means your tax dollars continue to go for things like schools, roads, and the various other government entities and services you see, read, and hear about.

I hope that has heightened your interest in not only saving some of your hard earned cash, but gotten you to consider credit unions as well as banks. Unfortunately, for the sake of neutrality I can't rightly suggest any one area credit union over another. However, the Credit Union Co-op, www.creditunion.coop, provides a very helpful credit union locator available on their website. If that doesn't work, you should have very little difficulty locating a bank in your area with any general search engine, such as Google, Lycos, or Yahoo. I hope that this has somehow helped you to take some initiative in empowering yourself financially in saving for your future. I wish you all the best of luck.

Your savings federally insured to at least \$250,000
and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government

NCUA

National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. Government Agency

Bronx Community College
is the place to be!
Get involved with campus life
JOIN A CLUB!



Club membership enhances the academic experience with:

OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE MANY ACADEMIC PROGRAMS & MAJORS

NUMEROUS LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PROFESSIONAL & SOCIAL NETWORKING

DOCUMENTED WORK EXPERIENCE

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP OTHERS

CROSS-CULTURAL COMPETENCE

MEMORIES & FRIENDSHIP

TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

COMMUNITY SERVICE

SCHOOL SPIRIT

AND MUCH MORE!

**For more information about joining or starting a club, contact the
Inter-Organizational Council office:**

Roscoe Brown Student Center, Room 309

718-289-5201/5962

www.bcc.cuny.edu/studentlife

BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Writers of the Month

Students in English 20 – Journalism II – offer suggestions to President Barack Obama as American political life enters a new and, they hope, progressive era.

Toni Ruiz

What is a good president? There is no one answer to this question. For I wish it was as simple as the math equation two plus two, but like life, this question is not. Words are just letters arranged in a particular order with assigned meanings. So what do the two words "good" and "president" mean? Well, when looking for the definition of a word one turns to the dictionary. The dictionary defines president as the highest executive officer of a modern republic, like the chief executive of the United States. And the word good is defined as righteous, virtuous, genuine, responsible, and dependable. But in today's world it really depends on who you ask. For example, some would say that hot is better than cold or that the light is better than the dark. You see, people – all people – have preferences. A good president is different in everyone's eyes. It all depends on who you ask, where that person stands in today's world, and who they are as a person.

So I'm going to tell you what a good president is from my point of view. So who am I? I am a female, a Hispanic, a student at Bronx Community College, a daughter of a single, hardworking mother, a brunette, right handed, a writer, a voter, but today I will write to you as an American. Because when it comes to politics I feel that out of all the categories I fall into, being an American is the most important.

So what makes a good president a good president? Is it the color of his skin? Till this day, we had only had white presidents, but our president today has changed this. So is it where he was born? If it's a female or male? Where he grew up? Who his parents were? Who he married? If he has children? What kind or how much education has he received? How old he is? What's his race or how many languages he speaks? No, it is not any of these silly details. It's not about where he's been in life; it's about what he brings to the table. "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," John Fitzgerald Kennedy said during his inaugural address in 1961. I believe every president should live by this quote. A true leader understands that change does not just affect him but all the people around him. He must understand that by choosing him as our president, enough of us stand behind him and his beliefs and trust and have faith in him and his plans to change and help our America.

Each president makes the word and title their own. Each president is also remembered for something or an event. President Nixon, the Watergate scandal. Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. George Washington was the first president, known as "The Father of Our Country". Bush, well, we all have our words for him, but that's a whole other subject. When someone says Barack Obama, do you think African American, middle-aged, married man, father of two daughters who just became the 44th president of the United States? I hope not. I hope you think great man who has just become the 44th president of the United States, who will in time lead our America to a better day. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "You should not judge a man by the color of his skin but by the content of his character." I wish we didn't pay so much attention to the little things which are of no significance, but to what is important about our president, like their ideas, plans and goals to helping and changing our America. When some say President Obama, I think change, hope, a chance for a new day. He will be a good president in my eyes because he believes that his people are just as important to the solution as he is.

Obama has a lot to live up to, and has a lot to fix and change. By choosing him, enough people believe in him, his beliefs, and plans to change our America. Yes, he is the first African American president of the United States of America, and that in itself is a huge accomplishment and milestone. But I do hope that it is not only what he is known for. I hope that he is known and remembered not for the color of his skin, but what he will come to do for our America. For helping his people remember that anything is possible with effort and time, one person can make a difference, dare to dream, and that we are as much apart of the problem as we are the solution. We, the people, can help to bring about a change with a new leader who has brought about much hope and inspiration to the

world and that we will reach our destination. We just have to take it one step at a time.

I don't have much advice to give the president of the United States. My advice is quite simple. Don't make promises you can't keep. Your words are very important to the people and after too many lies; it will be hard for your word to hold any credibility. And, more importantly, remember the people, all the people when you make your decisions, because your choice in the end affects all of us, in some shape or form, no matter who we are.

In the beginning of this article I asked what makes a good president a good president. There is no wrong or right answer to this question. But my answer would have to be, his heart, his ability to be humble, and his people. His heart makes a good president, and he has to be humble enough to remember it is not just him he is affecting, but all of his people who are affected by his change. And a good president remembers that his people are as important to the solution as he is.

Yessy Herrera

Dear President Barack Obama,

My name is Yessy and I reside in New York City. I am going to begin by congratulating you on your achievements. However, like many people today, I have personal concerns related to jobs, health care and education that I would like to address. I understand that the changes that you have promised the people of this country will take time to be accomplished. I also understand that patience is needed from us to see your changes become a reality.

President Obama, I am aware that we are living in hard times where many people are working in low-paying jobs and living with the fear that they will lose them. In addition, others have already lost their jobs because of our suffering economy. *The New York Times* mentioned: "You have inherited the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression." I have not lived through the challenges of a Great Depression. However, I can testify to the fact that presently many people like me are worried and hopeless. The words you have spoken are like a little light that shines at the end of the tunnel. You stated, "While we breathe we hope." That is a powerful statement because the last thing that we can lose is unfailing hope. While our hope is alive we can still believe that the crisis we face today will be gone one day. This gives people like me courage to persevere and return to a job that pays minimum wage where there is no thanking or acknowledgment for the service given.

Furthermore, the money is not enough to pay bills, buy healthier food and put a little away for my daughter's college tuition. However, I should not complain; every day I watch the news only to hear of people losing their jobs and, as a result, their homes as well. One of the things I would like to implore of you, President Obama, is the need for you to keep your promises of working diligently in the issue of job development in order to help those who have lost their jobs. In addition, implementing job training will be beneficial for people like me who are looking forward to bettering their situation. As you have stated, hard work is required on the part of all of us. Reassuringly, with a president that places his people's needs ahead of personal gain, "yes we can" have a better tomorrow.

President Obama, one of my other concerns is health care. There are many people who do not have health care and some like me have one from their job that hardly covers insurance costs. For example, my daughter who is 16 years old needs braces but my insurance does not pay for the procedure. Unfortunately, I do not have the money to pay for it. As a result my daughter is uncomfortable with her appearance. This problem hurts me because it is not that I am not working hard to provide for my family, but where do I get the money? Furthermore, when I go to the doctor and he gives me prescriptions, which 80% of them my insurance does not cover, the decision then arises whether to buy my needed medication or to buy food. Both are needed but there is only one that I can afford, which is food. In one of your speeches, you stated that you

will make health care affordable for everyone. Will that be the same health care that people of Congress have? Is this truly possible? If the answer is yes, then when will that occur? People should not have to continue choosing between buying medication and putting food on their table. Neither should we have to fight to get the same treatment that those with money can afford.

In another speech, you mentioned how your mother had to fight the health-care system for cancer treatments that she needed. This should not be the case because when we are sick we are fighting to save our lives. Fighting for the right to be treated or get certain medication will be an additional burden. Hence, President Obama, will you please see to it that all Americans have access to quality health care, disregarding their economical background?

The last concern that I will like to mention is on the issue of education. We need quality education for our children in order for them to have the same opportunities that you had. Children like my daughter look at your family as a role model. Your message gives hope to many children who are less fortunate to dream that one day their lives will be different. However, none of that is possible without a good education. One of your plans is to reform the No Child Left Behind Act. Your website stated that you "will improve the assessments used to track student progress to measure readiness for college and the workplace and improve student learning in a timely, individualized manner." This is a good reform because any school that is not showing improvement should be dealt with appropriately; otherwise, our children will suffer the consequence – and our country as well. Without quality education our children will not have the same preparation and education that other children in other parts of the world have. They won't have the opportunity to be "somebody"; they will only be set for failures. This is my worst fear. I don't wish the life I have for my daughter; I want her to have a better life. Furthermore, an opportunity to work hard and accomplish her dreams will truly be our American Dream.

My daughter is now in the eleventh grade and working very hard in school in order to be able to go to a good college like Columbia University. Unfortunately, I can't afford to buy her test preparation books. My daughter has to rely on books from the public library in order to practice for tests such as the SAT, and, sometimes, she has to wait for those books to be available. President Obama, we need good performing schools with a quality education. We also need books; education is impossible without books.

I would also like to ask you to please help in providing affordable higher education in order to make it possible for single mothers to attain a fulfilling career, as a result improving their well being. College tuition today is very expensive and not many people can afford it. Hence, the decision again is whether we can pay for a college education or provide for our basic necessities: like paying the monthly bills and putting food on the table.

President Obama, please help us in reaching our highest potentials in life. Courage, hard work and faith in ourselves are needed but we also need help from you. We want you to be our voice and guidance.

continued on page 5

continued from cover

Afterwards, we went to McGill University, where we visited two chemistry labs. In the first we visited with Prof. Kamal who was doing research to make plastics tougher and to make plastics that are resistant to all type of weather by a process called layering. In the second lab the scientists were explaining that they were trying to get thinner plastic which stronger and less porous. They showed us machinery that they build and use to test carbon dioxide pressure and its ability to make plastics that are thinner and of uniform thickness. This enables them to use less material.

All in all, this was a very informative and memorable trip.

continued from page 4

President Obama, like you said, there are many things to do, and you can not do it all alone. I can not talk for others, but I will do my part in working hard in changing myself. I also hope that the changes that you promise us will one day become a reality. Please do not be like many presidents who make many promises when they need the votes and later disregard their failing promises to help the lowly ones like myself. Many are venerating you; they are not giving up because you have given them hope. Please do not disappoint them, do the best you can to help us, and we will do our part. May God be with you and your family.

Sincerely,
Yessy Herrera

Catherine Cudjoe

Dear President Obama,

My heart is filled with joy and excitement as I write this letter. I know you, Michelle, and your lovely girls are doing very well by the grace of God. Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate you on your assumption of office. I could not make it to your inauguration, but, thank God, I was off work that fateful Tuesday, and thus I was glued to my television set together with my friends and family. My main purpose of writing this letter is that I would like to request that you make good the promises you made to us, the electorate, during your campaign for the position of President of the United States.

Mr. President, I would like to discuss five major areas that, as it were took, center stage during your campaign. These are the economy, the war in Iraq, the Middle East, health care and last, but not least, immigration.

On the economy, as we all know, we are in recession and it is affecting jobs and the general livelihood of all and sundry here in the United States and also the global economy. During your campaign you promised to create new jobs that relate to green technology and also, based on your proposals, growth will be engineered by the middle class. I was impressed with your proactive and assertive approach in tackling the economic issue since your introduction of an \$811 billion stimulus package. I am happy that Congress approved the proposal. I admire your efforts and also like your bipartisan approach. I have listened on the news to your directive to Wall Street executives on the urgent need to cut down on their bonuses and other luxury cost or risk losing government support as well as intervention. I deem it a step in the right direction.

During your outstanding campaign, you promised to ensure that our troops in Iraq begin their return home within eighteen months and, based on your initial meeting with your defense advisors, I am confident that our troops will return home soon. I am particular thrilled about this issue because I believe it has brought a lot of untold economic hardship to us, not to mention the loss of American lives. I have also observed that the Iraqis themselves want to manage their own security and country. I thank God for the progress we have made in reducing the violence which we caused by our ill-sighted invasion. Please remain resolute on the matter and work judiciously in this direction.

I was also very glad when you sent your envoy to the Middle East to assist in finding solutions to the Middle East conflict involving Israel and Palestine. I believe the Middle East is a strategic security concern for us as Americans. I will therefore advise that you commit the necessary time and resources to it. It will be prudent to integrate countries like Egypt, Jordan and others in the negotiations. Also, insist that Hamas renounce violence and accept Israel's existence as a sovereign nation. It is also important that Israel stop the killing of innocent lives in the Gaza Strip and begin the process of releasing innocent prisoners.

It will be very inappropriate, however, to mention the Middle East and forget about Afghanistan based on the resources we commit to their defense and economy. We need to assist the Afghans to gain the control of their promising nation from the Taliban. I was saddened by a documentary I saw on CNN recently. In the documentary report, a young lady was physically assaulted due to her desire to get education. This further brings to my mind to the need for us not to only promote democracy in the Middle East but also to uphold women's rights. Although we have a good relationship with countries, such as the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, there is a need to use our fruitful relationship to request that they make frantic efforts at human and women right issues.

Mr. President, there is saying that "health is wealth"; therefore, I believe that there is an urgent need for you to improve the health sector by not only introducing new policies but also reviewing the effectiveness and efficiency of health care delivery procedures.

During your campaign you made mention of the need for us to regulate the operations of the health-insurance sector, I propose that we as a nation must begin to consider the maintenance of health records and other vital information electronically. This will help reduce the cost of health delivery to a very large extent. During your last debate with Senator McCain, he made mention that your health-care plan seeks to provide tax benefits to employers who will intend provide health-care benefits to their staffs. I strongly disagree with your stance on this matter and will advise that you consult with Senator McCain and brainstorm on the issue. This is because Senator McCain's proposal seeks to provide health tax credits to individuals and family, which will allow them to make their own choices with regards to health insurance coverage. It will also enable them to go across state borders to purchase health insurance which they deem appropriate and beneficial to their health needs.

Finally, Mr. President, immigration is an issue which has caused many divisions in the country. It was one of your major promises to ensure that our borders are secured. I was very enthusiastic when you requested that immigration officials were to desist from visiting work places to arrest illegal workers. It is my hope that you, in consultation with your advisors, will provide a blueprint that will ensure that immigration issues are dealt with without overlooking issues of human rights as well as administrative justice.

In conclusion, it is my hope that you will continue to exhibit the exemplary leadership you have shown so far. It is my belief and prayer that you count on your chief counselor, who is God. I also advise that you remain focused on your promises to us as a nation but also remember to keep an eye on your girls. Once again may the good Lord guide and protect you in all your future endeavors. My warmest wishes to your family, friends and close associates. God Bless the United States of America.

Sincerely,
Catherine Cudjoe

Nicole Acosta

American history has undergone a major turnaround in the year 2009 with its newly elected president. The many presidential faces in the White House have always been that of white males who were born and raised in states like Texas, Massachusetts, Illinois, and Georgia, but that was the past. Although Americans look to the past for help and guidance, the past is meant to be changed. That change is evident in the presidential election of 2009 where there was not only a female running for office but there was also an African-American male running for president. Barack Obama became the first African American out of the many who have tried to become president to actually succeed in becoming the president. The United States can now proudly say that it has its first African-American president and this not only brings change but is a change within itself.

Considering that a new president now sits in the White House and, also considering that the president is the face of change, pressure has been placed on the shoulders of President Obama whose promises during his long and successful campaign are being put to the test as he starts his life as the head of the country. His promises such as reforming the economy, ending the war in Iraq, and supporting gay rights are of much interest in the world today; it is essential that President Obama can keep up with these promises and do things like end the on going war in Iraq and finally bring home the long awaited troops who have been stationed in Iraq for years. It would be even better if he can bring back the peace that this country once had and ensure that the peace lasts long enough to make the world happy, and a better place to live in. By promising to end the war Obama has given the American people hope and safety in the years to come. He has also given the troops stationed in Iraq a reason to want to continue doing their jobs and keep hope for one day returning home to their families and for living another day.

The second promise and the second most important change Obama can do as the new president is reform or improve the failing economy and bring money back into the United States. This change would prove to be huge if President Obama can pull it off as he has promised. He would change the way the stock market is run and

ensure that instead of stockholders earning all the money for themselves that some of that money would actually go into the hands of the people, banks and to the government. The American people can only hope that Obama can save the economy before it's too late, and there is nothing can be done to help it.

The most controversial topic a president can ever think of discussing is the issue of gay rights. The matter of gay marriages and of supporting gay rights has always been an issue in some states to the point where legalizing gay marriages was something of a problem for the country to agree on; but now that there is a president who is proud to not only support gay rights and be an open about his belief. Obama may be for gay rights and possibly giving the gay community more rights, but what he's not trying to do is make gay marriages legal – that, he's against. It's nice to have a president who actually believes in allowing people to be free with their sexual orientation and not judge people because the person would be gay rather than straight.

President Obama has promised to do many things to do in order to change the world and make it not only easier to live in but also cleaner and healthier to raise a family in and to grow old in, without have many worries over what's going to happen in the near future.

With a president like Obama what can go wrong that hasn't already happened in the past years before he came into office? Many things can go wrong with a new president; it's not like he's perfect or he's unable to make mistakes. If Obama doesn't follow his promises, or doesn't make the right choices, or he makes a mistake that can make things worst instead of better, that's how things can go wrong. In a world where being imperfect is normal, a president has to defy that normalcy to be seen as perfect as he possibly can be. But with that defiance comes the chance of slipping up and Obama can slip up at anytime during his presidency.

With a new face in the White House, and with history being made by having the first African-American male being elected into office, it's a mystery as to what will happen next and what groundbreaking event will happen next that will not only prove to be shocking and amazing but also history in the making. In order to witness these events the world must wait and sit back and expect the unexpected.

Carlos Roldan

Dear Mr. President,

First and foremost, I would love to congratulate you on your recent victory in the most revolutionary presidential campaign that America has ever witnessed. Your speeches have moved Americans to have hope for a new future. We as a nation and as a people have committed ourselves to change, not for the purposes of greed or selfishness, but because we all knew it was time for a change that could help our fellow Americans.

Your campaign was very adamant about many extremely important issues such as the economy, universal healthcare and when it might be appropriate to pull the troops out of Iraq. For most, these issues remain at the helm of importance, however; many others are concerned with the pressing issue that is once again challenging the very principle that this nation was built for, fought for, and many have died for, equality.

Marital equality between homosexuals and heterosexuals has become one of the most widely disagreed upon topics in America today. The decision, ultimately being left up to state legislation, seemed to be the right way to go with this tough issue. While Massachusetts and Connecticut have legalized same-sex marriage, many other states define these relationships in more legal terms than the union of same sex couples. The majority of states, however, have completely refused to accept the legalization of same couples under any circumstances.

In your campaign, Mr. President, you'd expressed that you felt that civil unions is the appropriate solution concerning same sex marriages. And as a Christian man myself, I am fully aware of the popular opinions being promoted by the heads of organized religion. However, what is being promoted does not match the American standard of all men being created equally under one God.

continued on page 6

It is my hope, Mr. President, that the values concerning equality and liberty will remain embedded in your mind. When these values come to mind, be cognizant of the same-sex couples that voted for you in the hopes that you might be able to continue the fight for equality. Also, please never become complacent with the regime that has been put in your hands. Change was the word most used in your campaign. Many believe that the change we were making was simply that from a white man to our very first black president, so for many that's where the victory lay. My hope is that you do not allow that to be the most prominent change in this country: that your presidency will not only break racial boundaries, but also allow other minority groups, like same-sex couples, whose inalienable rights are being degraded, to be just as victorious as your most deserved victory.

Sincerely,
Carlos Roldan

Gretchen Guerrero

Dear Mr. President,

On January 20, 2008, America witnessed the new President of the United States take the oath of office on the steps of the US Capitol. It is truly history because throughout the years many have fought for a change, and you are proof of that change. After all the years of fighting to end slavery and segregation, you are now America's 44th president and our first African American president.

America is facing extremely hard times with the promise of hope and change, but no action. Some issues include war, economic faltering and collapse in some areas, the threat of terrorism, and the loss of jobs, health insurance, homes, and businesses. Beside the transition of transferring powers, there also lies another transition that is more complex and will determine the effectiveness of your new administration in resolving America's main issues.

America was promised something better for our country, but has received the opposite. When George W. Bush was in office, his administration gave tax cuts to the wealthy that earn more than \$1 million, which was much greater than that of middle-income Americans. This administration also refused to tackle health care, education, and housing in a manner that benefits the middle class. Many Americans, like me, believe that taxes should be increased to the wealthy and not the poor. I also think that with Americans losing their homes, housing regulations needs to be enforced. It is ridiculous how long one must wait for section 8 assistance and housing assistance. I believe that the waiting should not be that long because more and more families have become homeless and need help.

Another problem is that with the stagnant wages one gets paid, it seems nearly impossible to get by and buy ordinary necessities as the prices of goods keeps increasing. Our college tuition has increased so much that many believe it is too costly for them to enroll. This is a problem because this will only lead to more and more Americans having no college education which will prevent them from finding a good job, especially since good jobs are limited right now. A resolution might be an increase of the minimum wage and lowering the cost of college tuition.

One of our main issues right now as our economy weakens is the loss of many jobs. Uncertainty and fear are making Americans lose patience with themselves and committing unbelievable acts of desperation. Every night one watches the news when, once again, we are reminded of our country's crisis. There is always a story of how a family member has lost his or her job, then their mortgage and now needs help. Just a few weeks ago, there was a story of a man who killed his wife, children and himself out of desperation because they both lost their jobs. You can not continue to let this happen to Americans. There must be a way for creating more job opportunities. One way is to build, fix, and improve our nation's roads, bridges, highways, ports, and air and train systems. Trade with foreign countries should also create more American jobs also well as increase the economy. Next, we need to find an alternative renewable fuel source, since we all know oil is a limited commodity, no matter how much oil exploration and gathering we do. This can also create more jobs.

It is hard for many after losing a job because they also lose his or her health insurance too. The costs to see a doctor nowadays are so high that many prefer to just

hold on and pray they get better. I remember a time when I was feeling ill, but did not have insurance to see a doctor. Whenever I tried to apply for insurance, I did not qualify because of my income. I think that is outrageous because I have a daughter who I have to maintain with the little I get paid, not to mention the rent and other bills I have to pay. I have to manage my check to keep a roof over my daughter's head and to bring a plate of food home and, with a bill of almost \$900 for two IV's, it is impossible. Health-insurance costs should be lowered for middle-class Americans because since many are not covered, it is too costly for them to even see a doctor when ill which will only lead to many Americans getting ill with no medications.

On this same day of your inauguration, you stated something that was very inspiring and gave the country hope in recover from our current crisis, you said, "The challenges we face are real. They are serious and they are many. They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this America, they will be met." Another part of your inauguration speech that really made most Americans believe that you will help us was when you said, "We remain the most prosperous, powerful nation on earth. Our workers are no less productive than when this crisis began. Our minds are no less inventive, our goods and services no less needed than they were last week or last month or last year. Our capacity remains undiminished. But our time of standing pat, of protecting narrow interests and putting off unpleasant decisions—that time has surely passed. Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of renaming America."

There is much to be learned and much to be improved. This is not the first time our nation has had a major crisis that we have not recovered from. Yes, it may take time, but right now, that is all we have so maybe, and hopefully, you will lead us out from it and into the "United States of America" once again with some of my suggestions at heart. Thank you and congratulations!

A concerned citizen,
Gretchen Guerrero

Maritza Cruz

Dear Mr. President,

First and foremost, congratulations on a life-changing victory. It was centuries before anyone could even consider having an African American president. But that has changed; it was likely to change due to the world that we live in today. This alone proves that we have come far. You have been chosen as our leader to lead us to greater things, and can I just say, on behalf of the part of the world we have put our future of the United States of America in your hands. I hope that's not too much to handle. We will not regret this decision because we as Americans were tired of the same routine, having our

economy and our lives sink slowly because of a job poorly done. We appreciate you wanting the best for America, and knowing how much dedication you have and how seriously you're taking your job adds comfort for us. With time we have no doubt will indeed change the environment we live in into a much better world where we will leave our youth.

Being able to have you as president is an honor, not only because you are someone who will represent change in this world, but because it was also my first time being able to vote. Knowing that the candidate that I voted for won is astonishing because other people saw what I saw. You have a voice, Mr. President, and with that voice you capture a massive amount of listeners who in a sense also want to be heard. You once said, "If you're walking down the right path and you're willing to keep working, eventually you'll make progress," and this is exactly the motivation we need. If you look around people seem to be giving up easier, whether it's with school or work, they seem to be losing eyesight on what the future is yet to bring them. This needs to change, and having you as president, the first African-American president, demonstrates that anything is possible; you've given light to many darknesses that exist within us. And we believe in a better America; we believe in our country moving forward.

Now, taking leadership is playing an extremely important role because you promised us things, things that will help shift our environment into a better position. Your detailed plan to get America back on its feet, creating more opportunities, creating newer jobs will help more than many might think. Since I'm receiving an education, and millions are as well, I am glad that you find education important enough and are putting children first by investing in early childhood education. Like you said, "We have an obligation and a responsibility to be investing in our students and our schools. We must make sure that people who have the grades, the desire and the will, but not the money, can still get the best education possible." What's better then being the best you can be?

Something else that you promised us is affordable health care because, for many, it is not easily accessible, and I know that to just walk in it can cost \$150. It may not seem like much but it does add up. As you may know, over 40 million Americans do not have health insurance and to bring down the numbers would help America. I, myself, have gone by without health insurance, and it's neither easy nor fun. It can be extremely difficult because sometimes what doctors need to do is take actions that can be tremendously expensive and we the people have to come up with the money. I understand that you want to lower health insurance by \$2,500 for a typical family a year, and that alone makes things much easier, and more affordable.

continued on page 7

BCC

SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE

Hours of Service:
Mon-Thurs 5-10 pm
Pick up the shuttle in
front of Meister Hall.

Service to and from campus every 20 minutes.
Stops include #4 Subway Stations: Burnside, 183rd & Fordham Rd.

BRONX
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

For more information, please contact
the Office of Student Life at 718-289-5194



continued from cover

It is something that never can happen again in any place on our planet. All people around the world should think about how devastating this is and try to achieve world peace."

At their next meeting, Student World Assembly members will discuss their impressions from the trip, their views on the effectiveness of the United Nations and, especially, the UN's Millennium Development Goals and whether or not they are realistic and can be achieved by 2015. An examination of The Earth Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will also be part of this in-depth discussion.

The Student World Assembly is a non-governmental, nonpartisan organization created to represent students globally. It provides a deliberative assembly where students around the world can exchange views, vote on global issues through online discussion forums and in annual international conventions, and translate these views into meaningful actions. BCC students who are interested in global issues are urged to join SWA to take an active part in the group's activities and discussions.

Student World Assembly (www.studentworldassembly.org) members will also join the History Club later this semester on a trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (<http://www.ushmm.org>) in Washington, DC.

For more information about the Bronx Community College chapter of the Student World Assembly, please contact Barbara Schaefer-Peleg (bsp@thenationalcenter.org) or Professor Andrew Rowan (rowanandrewdavid@aol.com).

continued from page 6

Tears were bought upon my eyes during your inauguration speech. I, like many, was touched on the words you chose to express yourself. Knowing that even with war, and people wanting to fight America, we will extend a hand if they are willing to unclench their fists. You promised to have at least 16,000 of our combat troops back within sixteen months; I clearly remember you oppose "dumb wars." I know many, not all four hundred-plus promises will be kept, but I also know you won't let America down. You said, "We need to internalize this idea of excellence. Not many folks spend a lot of time trying to be excellent."

We have come a long way, and will continue working in creating a better America. Many might not believe but failure is sometimes the key to success, and having our economy sink can serve as an inspiration to not wanting life to continue that way. It is important that we want to change; it is important that we want nothing but the best for us and every one around us. Generations have passed us, and even the slightest change made a difference. We don't expect things to alter within a night because time is as valuable as the air we breathe, and we are willing to take a challenge, a challenge that in the end we will defeat because we are a strong America. Like you stated, "Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real. They are serious and they are many. They will not be

met easily or in a short span of time. But know this, America — they will be met."

Best regards,
Maritza Cruz

Isaac Marciano

Dear Mr. President Barack Obama:

I just want to start off by congratulating you on your presidency and wish you the best. I just hope that once you start making changes, you remember that right now we, the people, are in a very bad economic crisis, and I hope you can help through these very tough times. However, it is affecting the working class the most, like myself, because we are all being laid off from work, getting our paid cut or just simply getting fired. So I ask of you, help us before we all lose our homes and minds. The best thing to do would be to lower taxes or prices and make more jobs available or help us get our jobs back. Another good thing to do would be to make Medicaid available to more people or health plans not so expensive.

Since prices have been going up, less and less people have been buying and spending, therefore, leaving companies in debt and causing them to cut people's pay or just lay them off. People losing their jobs means that many of those lose their homes and are forced to become homeless. This crisis is becoming so bad that it is even affecting people psychologically; people are becoming stressed and depressed and doing things to hurt themselves and their family. Just recently in the *Daily News* there was a report about a man, a doctor, who killed himself and his family because he had lost his job. It was said that this man had become so upset and depressed that he had lost his job that he decided to kill himself and because he didn't want his family to suffer because of poverty due to the economy. He killed his six kids and wife as well. I know you have an understanding of this, but I just want you to know how bad it really is and also a point of view from the people of your country.

The issue with health insurance is that in 2003 it was said that 45 million Americans did not have medical coverage; this was issued by the Partnership of Prescription Assistants (PPA). Every year that number goes up. And every year more people are getting sick and dying because they have no coverage to help them through their sicknesses. Not even people with low incomes are being accepted to the available health plans, which is outrageous. And again, this is due to the crisis that is among us.

The reason why I mention these two issues is because they are the most important living criteria for us, the people. Having a job and being able to make money is very important to us because we have to pay to keep a roof over our head and we also have families to take care of. Then, medical coverage is also important because we have to take care of our health and be consistent with our checkups, because of all the sicknesses that are going around now in days and without any coverage it becomes very expensive.

These are just a few things that need to be done

in the U.S., but I have faith in you and I believe that you will make great changes and make this a better state.

Sincerely,
Isaac Marciano

Beatrice Ray

Dear President Barack Obama,

First, I would like to say happy days are here again. History has been made. Thank you, President Barack Obama, for you persisted to prevail and going the distance. You have given hope to African-Americans around the world that we can do anything if we set our goals high and reach for them, no matter the odds and what we will have to endure. I know that it is a long road for you and that getting the economy back to where it should be will be a challenge for you but you have prevailed when many thought that this was not the era for a Black president. But the need outweighed the fears, and people did the right thing and went for the change. I, for one, thought that you may be cheated out of you chance by tricks of the polls but then as I followed the campaign, I saw your opponent was no threat.

President Obama, your stimulus package has great potential but there are some things that I think could help to keep the monies that are being given from being abused. First, the large companies should be monitored more closely. Some of the reasons why the economy is in the shape that it is in are because of these large corporations abusing their funds. We need not to repeat history but change history.

More money should be given to the small businesspeople because they are the ones trying to build a better future for their families and children. The small businesspeople are the foundation of the country now. At one time it was the big companies that fueled the country but they have become greedy and uncaring for their shareholders. The shareholders are the ones who saved and invested — not just because they have money to burn but because they are trying to save for their children's future, their old age and a chance to improve their lives. When a large corporation goes belly up, it is not the big CEOs that suffer but the small investors who lose their future.

Money should be put into education, not taken from the students, their parents, and teachers; education is what turns uncivilized people to civilized people. Teaching people how to spend their money wisely and where to go to get the best for their dollar is very important.

To conclude, President Obama, you have teachers who want to educate the people and students with strong minds who want to grow, learn and benefit the world. Let's give them a chance.

Thank you,
Beatrice Ray

Top 4 Reasons to Transfer to the Seidenberg School



Seidenberg
School of Computer Science
and Information Systems
PACE
UNIVERSITY
Work toward greatness.

For more information, go to
seidenberg.pace.edu/transfer7 or
contact transfer@seidenberg.pace.edu
or (212) 346-1017

Maximum Transfer Credits/Minimum Completion Time

- Students with a GPA of 3.0 or higher will:
- Automatically be accepted into the Seidenberg School
- Have their transfer credits assessed against minimum requirements prior to enrollment
- Have up to 60 earned credits accepted directly into any one of our bachelor's degree programs

Outstanding Scholarship Opportunities for Transfer Students

- Academic achievement awards of up to \$10,000 per year available for students with a GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Need-based grants available
- Additional \$1,000 award is used for members of Phi Theta Kappa and honor society for community college students

Numerous Degree Options

- BS or BA in Computer Science
- BS or BA in Information Systems
- BS in Technology Systems
- BS in Professional Computing Studies
- BS in Professional Technology Studies (pending)

Outstanding Cooperative Education Internship Program

Transfer students with a GPA of 3.0 or higher qualify for a cooperative education program through PACE's Cooperative Education Program. It requires the student to work full-time (20 hours per week) at a related field of study during the summer months. Faculty (50 percent of more) select their final year of study based on the student's performance in their cooperative education program.

ATTENTION!

All students who expect to graduate in June 2009 must complete a candidate for degree card in the Registrar's Office.

Colston Hall, Room 513
From January 26
through March 13, 2009

If you do not fill out a candidate for degree card before the listed deadline, your name will not appear in the Commencement Program.



For more information, please visit
www.bcc.cuny.edu or call 718-289-5194.

Recurring Features

Health and Fitness with Dr. Wayne

Top 10 Reasons to Try Yoga

Originating in India thousands of years ago, yoga has become an increasingly popular form of exercise and stress reduction. The word yoga means to yoke or unite, which refers to the practice of using the mind and body together to achieve balance, flexibility and strength. There are different types of yoga to suit every need, from vigorous to relaxing and everything in between. Here are 10 reasons to give yoga a try.

1. **Increased flexibility and reduced risk of injury.** Each yoga pose targets specific muscles while also keeping them warm and limber, thereby increasing flexibility and reducing the risk of injury.
2. **Focused breathing and concentration.** A primary component of yoga is the rhythmic breathing. Taking full, complete breaths makes it easier to relax and center the mind, and is believed to have other therapeutic effects.
3. **The mind-body connection.** Rather than mindlessly going through the motions, yoga requires you to focus all of your energies on performing each movement precisely. This benefits both the mind and body.
4. **Greater strength and stamina.** More vigorous forms of yoga, such as vinyasa and ashtanga, promote strength and stamina as well as flexibility and relaxation.
5. **Fewer muscle imbalances.** Those who are new to yoga may notice muscle

and flexibility imbalances throughout the body. Yoga poses are designed to help correct these imbalances over time.

6. **Better balance and stability.** Balancing poses require you to engage the core stabilizer muscles, which can help improve overall stability.

7. **Improved posture.** Yoga poses strengthens and opens tight areas such as the shoulders and muscles of the upper back, which is necessary for good posture.

8. **Greater body awareness.** Yoga requires you to contract and/or relax specific muscles as you stretch into each pose, thereby increasing awareness of the body's strengths and weaknesses.

9. **Stress reduction.** Yoga helps soothe the mind and lower stress levels by focusing the mind on the moment and the movements rather than on external distractions.

10. **Cross-training benefits.** Yoga combines flexibility, strength training and balance to create a mind-body activity that is a perfect addition to any fitness regimen.

Next month, Stress Management
If you have any questions or comments, please email
me at: Wellness4all@yahoo.com

Be well.
Dr. Wayne Major
Health, Physical Education and
Wellness Department



CHALLENGE YOUR FITNESS

From February 17, 2009 to May 1, 2009.



- Earn miles for each minute of cardio exercise you do.
- Top six participants will earn a trophy. T-shirts and pedometers will be awarded based on distance traveled.
- Every 15 minutes of cardiovascular exercise is worth 5 miles.
- Keep track of your exercise time at the Cardiovascular Center for 10 weeks.

Sign up with Dr. Major at 718-289-5276
in the Alumni Gym Room 300.

BCC Leadership Institute

A Training Program for Collegiate Student Leaders

Free leadership training will provide students with the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and gain the tools needed to lead more effectively. The curriculum focuses on cutting-edge leadership skills and strategies needed to successfully implement both campus and community initiatives. Upon completion of the training component, students will have the opportunity to take an exam and become a **Nationally Certified Student Leader!**

PROGRAM QUALIFICATIONS

In order to be considered for the program, students must:

- Be registered for at least six credits the semester the application is filed
 - Have a minimum cumulative G.P.A. of 2.5
- Have completed at least 12 degree credits, but have no more than 35 prior to submitting the required application
- Submit a recommendation from a member of the BCC faculty
 - Provide a brief statement of at least 250, but no more than 300 words, detailing campus and community leadership plans
- **Please Note:** In certain cases, the program qualifications may be waived if the student is already involved in a campus leadership program.

Applications are available now and can be picked up in the Student Life office, RBSC 102. Upon request, an application can also be sent to you via the mail or by email. If you need additional information, please stop by our office in RBSC 102 or call us at 718-289-5194.

Campus News

Bronx Music Teacher Honored at Bronx Community College Irish Heritage Day on Thursday, March 12

Public School 59 Music Teacher Caroline Duggan will be the community guest of honor at the 24th Irish Heritage Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony at Bronx Community College, held in Colston Hall at 12 noon. She will also lead the Keltic Dreams Irish Dance Troupe in a performance. The troupe has performed for former U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn and President of Ireland Mary McAleese.

The remarkable aspect of the Keltic Dreams Irish Dance Troupe is their diversity and mastery of a dance from another culture, which has improved their confidence and hope in themselves. The group comprises 40 fourth and fifth grade students from P.S. 59. The students are predominantly Hispanic and African-American. How they began is also a fascinating story.

Duggan, a native of Crumlin, County Dublin, Ireland, came to the U.S. in 2002 in response to a New York City Board of Education recruitment outreach for science and math teachers. She was the only music teacher who applied and was selected to teach at P.S. 59 on Bathgate Avenue, a socio-economically challenged community.

"I loved the students and the school the first day I arrived. I was constantly questioned about my funny accent from Ireland by the kids. In response to their curiosity, I shared a bit of my culture and showed them a few Irish dance steps. I was shocked at how quickly they picked up the steps. With the principal's blessing, I

formed an Irish dance program after school on Wednesdays and Fridays," states Duggan.

Six years later, after long rehearsals, the Keltic Dreams Irish Dance Troupe has placed P.S. 59 on the



Public School 59 Music Teacher Caroline Duggan will be the community guest of honor at the 24th Irish Heritage Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony at Bronx Community College, held in Colston Hall (2155 University Avenue at West 181st Street) at 12 noon. Here she leads the Keltic Dreams Irish Dance Troupe in a performance. The troupe has performed for former U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn and President of Ireland Mary McAleese.

world map. "For me, the Keltic Dreams Irish Dance Troupe demonstrates the universality of Irish culture and its ability to affect people from all backgrounds," says Duggan.

Also being honored as an outstanding Irish American will be Professor Mary Rogan. She will be acknowledged for her successful contributions as labor designee and legal counsel to Bronx Community College. Born and raised in the Bronx, her mother, Bridie, hails from Ballinamore, County Leitrim, Ireland; and her father, Neal, was born in the Bronx. Rogan is a graduate of the CUNY BA Program, taking many of her classes at Lehman College. After attaining her bachelor's degree, Rogan worked as a social worker for Visiting Nurse Services in the Bronx. Believing that legal skills would be useful in her community work, she attended Antioch School of Law in Washington, D.C., and practiced immigration and family law in New York City. She is also a regular BCC 10K runner and recently qualified for the New York City Marathon.

The banquet luncheon cost is \$30 at the door and \$25 in advance. For more information about the Irish Heritage Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony, and to send payment, please call Dean Alice Fuller at (718) 289-5143 (Language Hall, Room 16, BCC, 2155 University Avenue, Bronx, NY 10453).

Bronx Community College Irish Heritage Committee is celebrating...

St. Patrick's Day

Thursday March 12, 2009, 12 - 2:30 pm
Colston Hall - Lower level

Come Join us in Honoring Caroline Duggan, Dance Teacher & Choreographer of "Keltic Dreams" Irish Dance Troupe Music Teacher PS-59 - The Community School of Technology, Bronx, NY and Mary Rogan, Professor, Labor Designee & Legal Counsel Bronx Community College

~Great Cráic ~ Irish Food and Drink ~

Traditional Music and Entertainment by: The Keltic Dreams Irish Dancers • www.thekelticdreams.com

BANQUET REGISTRATION FORM ~ Reservations deadline March 2, 2009 - 3:00 pm

Luncheon = \$ 30 Advance Reservations/ Prepay = \$25 Prepay Reserved table of 8 = \$200

NAME: _____ No. of Guests: _____ Table(s): _____ (attach guest list on back)

ADDRESS: _____

TEL # _____ E-Mail: _____

Souvenir Program Advert Subscription ~ copy deadline Feb 28, 2009 - 3:00 pm

I Agree to the subscription of a: Full Page = \$100.00 (Please Circle One) Half Page = \$ 60.00

"Please attach copy ready message"

Please copy and return to: Rob Whelan Gould Memorial Library 14
Bronx Community College ~ 2155 University Avenue, Bronx, NY 10453

E-Mail: robert.whelan@bcc.cuny.edu

Tel # 718-289-5162

Fax # 718-289-6469

Please make checks payable: "Bronx Community College Irish Heritage"

NYPIRG News

NYPIRG at BCC Joined Hundreds of Colleges Nationwide to Host the National Teach-in on Global Warming Solutions

The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) at Bronx Community College hosted the National Teach-In on Global Warming Solutions on Thursday, February 5. The teach-in, which was sponsored by the 1Sky Campaign, was conducted on hundreds of other campuses across the country.

A nationally aired video educated the students about the broad-ranging and negative environmental, social and economic impacts of global warming and the need for immediate federal action on the issue. Students learned about the connection between federal global warming solutions and the economy, particularly the proposed economic stimulus bill that is being considered by the United States Senate.

The teach-in concluded with a call to action for New York's students. Students were asked to help shape federal global warming policy by writing personal appeals to Senators Schumer and Gillibrand. The letters focused primarily on the economic stimulus bill by calling on the Senators to prioritize specific measures that would improve the economy and create a greener planet. Specifically, students

asked the Senators to provide funding for things like green jobs and more energy efficient homes and called on them to support statutes to reduce diesel emissions and asthma rates.

The goal of the NYPIRG/1Sky campaign is to unite hundreds of diverse organizations and thousands of individuals behind a common platform in the fight against global warming. Focusing on the first 100 days of the new Obama administration, the NYPIRG/1Sky Coalition will demand global warming solutions from Congress and the new administration by demonstrating diverse and robust public will for such legislation.

For more information, contact: Jamie Munro, 718-289-5409, bcnypirg@yahoo.com or visit: www.nypirg.org, www.1sky.org, www.national-teachin.org



Student Shocked by Textbook Costs

Francisca Villar, a BCC student and member of the Student Government Association, did not expect to spend \$983 on textbooks this semester. Like many BCC students, Villar had to figure out how to purchase books for four classes and juggle other expenses, like transportation and tuition.

Villar was just one of over one hundred students who participated in "Sticker Shock 101" an informal survey of textbook costs conducted by students involved with NYPIRG. The survey was conducted on January 27 and 28 in the lobby of Roscoe Brown Student Center and found that the average amount that BCC students spent on textbooks was \$334.88. This cost is more than any financial aid voucher available to students.

Throughout the course of the survey, students involved with NYPIRG heard a number of complaints about the exorbitant costs. "My voucher was \$200 and I had to spend \$260. Now that cuts into my food and Metro Card costs," said Jacqueline Rivera, a second year student. Several students also reported that they would not be purchasing all of their

required books.

Francisca Villar, who spent more than any other student surveyed for Sticker Shock 101, put the huge amount she spent in a broader perspective: "Managing the cost of textbooks, now that Gov. Patterson is proposing budget cuts to CUNY, with higher tuition, as well as higher transportation costs, since the MTA is also asking for a hike, is going to be hard."

Villar added that she hoped for a legislative solution to the problem of soaring book costs. "It's crazy how this government forgets how hard it is to be a working class student trying to make it. There should be laws against text books being so expensive."

Besides promoting an online book exchange (www.nypirg.org/bx) where students can buy and sell books among themselves, NYPIRG is also hoping to explore book rental programs, early adoption incentives for faculty, and free online open source textbooks.

Editorials

Introduction to Journalism student Shaunte Morgan wrote this article that was first published in the December 2008 issue of The Communicator. BCC student Anthony Harper responded to her article with a letter that was printed in the February issue of The Communicator. Now, Ms. Morgan has responded to him.

The Communicator encourages this respectful exchange of ideas and viewpoints and hopes that in the spirit of critical thinking and reasoning to see more exchanges of this kind in the newspaper.

The Continuing Problem of Police Brutality

By Shaunte Morgan

Having trained people protecting citizens and enforcing the law is beneficial to living without chaos and to ensure safety in every community. However, in the year 2008, police have been sending negative messages through their actions, and innocent people are being affected. When a person holds a high position in government and is authorized to kill, many times they abuse their power. Unfortunately, when situations like these happen the outcome is devastating and families are suffering.

There are far too many cases regarding police brutality against innocent human beings. In April 1991, an incident occurred which helped people understand more thoroughly the treatment of minorities from police officers. Rodney King, a young male living in Los Angeles, was detected speeding by a California Highway Patrol officer. Fearing that he would be sent back to jail for violating his parole from a previous offense, he began driving at 115 miles per hour. Once the police were able to get hold of him, four cops beat him mercilessly, including one sergeant. King suffered a fractured skull and serious internal injuries. Although the hideous event was caught on tape and perceived by many as unacceptable and unjust, all four police officers were acquitted. Many thought it was an unjust ruling being that the jury was predominantly white people in a suburban area called Simi Valley.

The government, the police departments and average citizens throughout the city and the country may acknowledge the wrongdoings and some believe in tak-

ing action; however, a majority of people have not taken matters into their hands to try to resolve the problem of police brutality.

Radley Balko, author of *Overkill: The Rise of Paramilitary Police Raids in America* stated that 75-80 percent of SWAT teams (special weapons and tactics) are for warrant service. However, in numerous cases, the SWAT teams forcefully enter the wrong address ending in injury, trauma and death to innocent ones. Berman Heights Mayor Cheye Calvo and his family were connected with a package of marijuana which police believed was en route to Calvo's home. When police and SWAT team arrived, they used forceful entry, arrested him and his family. They were later found not guilty. Police brutality has not enforced the law; instead, it has been used as unjustified, excessive force. One troubling aspect is that police tend to arrest the people that they have gratuitously brutalized. Free Americans must come together in order to make some affirmative changes in the justice system, because being quiet will only contribute to this madness.

Dear Shaunte,

Your article, "The Continuing Problem of Police Brutality" in *The Communicator's* December 2008 issue is troubling. The Rodney King Incident that you cite took place in 1991 in the Los Angeles area. Granted, the beating that he received was unjustified. However, you mention that he drove at a speed of 115 MPH to avoid

police for violating parole. Apparently, his unlawful act of driving at that speed, endangering motorists and pedestrians, and attempting to avoid apprehension (for parole violation) does not upset you.

Also, two of the four officers acquitted on state charges in the King case were found guilty by a federal jury of civil rights violations in April 1993. You did not mention this fact.

Shaunte, if you want to look locally for prime examples of police brutality, look no further than Amadou Diallo, Abner Louima, Shaun Bell and Michael Mineo. These are cases that the average New Yorker might be able to identify with. On the other hand, where is your outrage for Police Officer Russel Timenshenko, who was brutally shot in the face and killed during a traffic stop in Brooklyn? He and his partner pulled over a car driven by three career criminals, at least one of which was armed with a gun.

Shaunte, get it right. Police are a cross section of society, and you get good eggs with bad eggs. Career criminals are also an ongoing issue, but I suppose not a lot of readers would be interested in that subject. Society in general has a problem, not just the police. Before you attempt to stir the pot, please ascertain what the ingredients are first.

Anthony Harper
845-742-9888
ANTHONY.HARPER@STU.BCC.CUNY.EDU

continued on page 12

continued from page 11

Dear Anthony,

The letter you wrote to the editor in response to my article "The Continuing Problem of Police Brutality" does not address the main points of my paper which are police brutality and injustice from the ones who serve to protect. Unfortunately, you did not get the message that I have sent to my readers. Minorities, along with many other citizens, have been victimized by the judicial system for many years.


You noted that Rodney King's beating was unjustified. Then you stated that although the cops beat him severely (which led to a fractured skull along with other serious injuries), he should not have been speeding. That's absurd! The fact that King was beaten mercilessly until those four officers were tired obviously does not upset you.

The purpose of my article was to address some of the issues within law enforcement. Although I did not mention that Stacey Koon and Lauren Powell were later found guilty, the issue of this case is the brutal force used towards Rodney King. However, many officers before Koon and Powell and after have been unjustly acquitted of police brutality.

There are a lot of officers who work to keep the people in their community safe; my brother-in-law is one of them. There are also a lot of crooked officers who abuse their positions of power, and it is unacceptable. When a person has done a good job, they may be rewarded, but when a person commits a crime, they must be punished. I am an aspiring lawyer, therefore, my concerns for people come naturally.

That is why I am proud to say that I am an advocate for justice. Are you?

Respectfully,
Shaunte Morgan



The Poet's Lounge

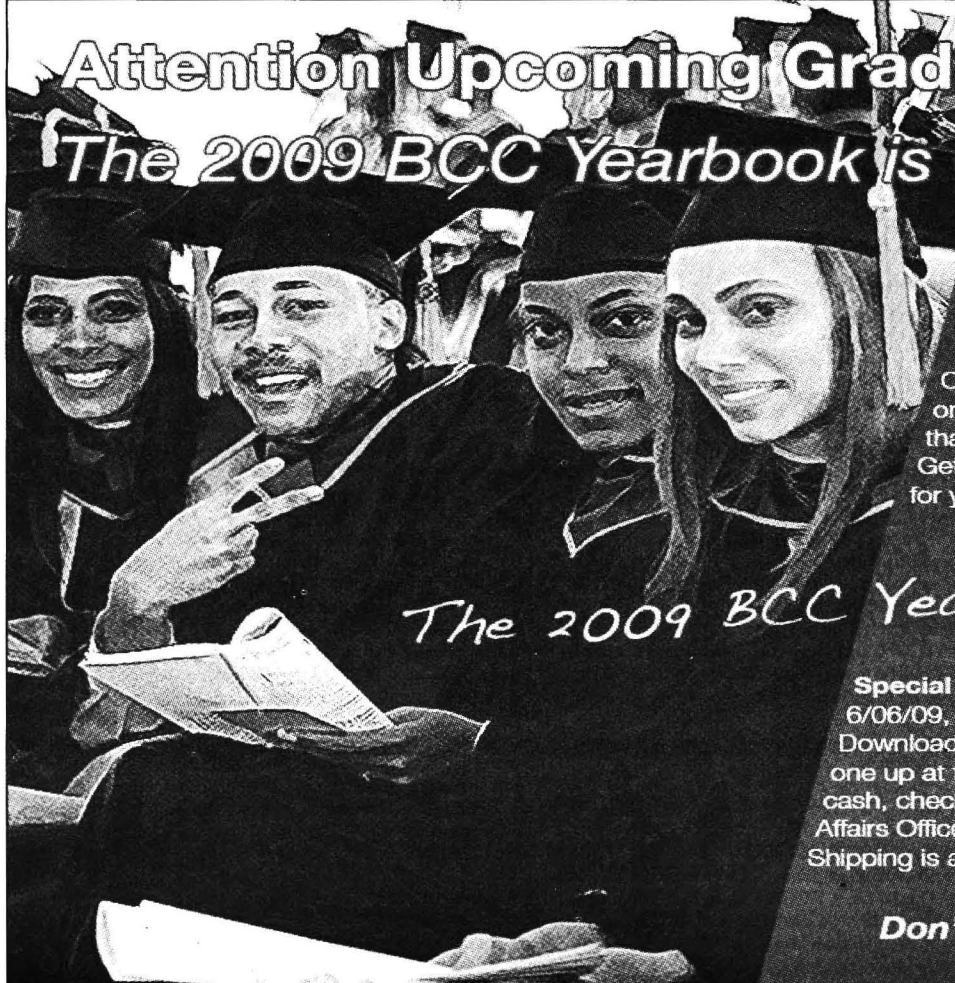
A popular celebration of the spoken word
featuring a judged competition with cash prizes
for the most gifted poets.

April 3, 2009
RBSC 207/208 6-9 pm

Multiple original poems are
required. A number of
3 rounds is standard
for the competition.

Sponsored by the
Office of Student Life
For more information,
please call 718-289-5194.

BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Attention Upcoming Graduates

The 2009 BCC Yearbook is Coming

BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The yearbook has a group on **facebook**
"Bronx Community College 2009 Yearbook".

Open to all BCC students graduating January, June, or August 2009. Share memories, ideas, and photos that could be used in the upcoming 2009 yearbook. Get updates and news about the yearbook and vote for your favorite designs. Join us!

The 2009 BCC Yearbook - Be There!

Special pre-order price of only \$30 available until 6/06/09, so purchase your yearbook NOW!
Download an order form from the BCC website, or pick one up at the Student Life office, RBSC 102. Pay with cash, check, credit card, or money order at the Alumni Affairs Office, GML 14 (718-289-5162). Shipping is available for an extra charge.

Don't let the memories fade away!

Bronx Community College Awarded \$2.4 Million Cooperative Grant to Improve Students' Academic Success in Sciences

Bronx Community College (BCC) of The City University of New York has been awarded one of the largest grant acquisitions in the College's history from the U.S. Department of Education. It is designed to produce greater numbers of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) graduates, and to insure that minority and economically disadvantaged students are equitably represented in these critically important fields. This project seeks to strengthen the institutional frameworks needed to produce STEM Associate's degree holders at Bronx Community College, and to bring them to successful Bachelor's degree attainment at the City College of New York (CCNY). The \$2.4 million will extend over a two year period.

Three qualities known to lead to student success in STEM disciplines are: continuity, which structures the educational experience in ways that best support student advancement through increasingly rigorous STEM content; capacity, which emphasizes enhancing student knowledge and skills; and engagement, which focuses on developing student interest and motivation. This project is organized around activities that build upon these three indicators of student success:

Continuity—Students transferring from BCC to CCNY will be given academic advisement and mentoring by STEM faculty at both institutions. Cross-campus faculty collaboration will align STEM coursework and curricula. Students will be effectively and actively tracked by academic advisors. New dual/joint degree programs will be developed in STEM disciplines.

Capacity—A new interdisciplinary lab skills course will accelerate student progress at BCC, and BCC transfer students will attend joint BCC/CCNY "Bridge" programs designed to strengthen key mathematical skills and comprehension of scientific concepts. Paid

internships will provide financial support and reinforce learning. Laboratory upgrades at BCC will align coursework across the campuses.

Engagement—BCC faculty will provide financial support to STEM students so that they feel a connection to a larger scientific community. Lack of sufficient funds and having to work full-time are major problems among students. The grant will provide greatly needed funds for academic and non-academic services that the college has not been able to afford in the past. There will even be release time for faculty so that they can spend more time with students. The grant will provide academic advisement on a regular basis by specially trained STEM faculty advisors using a case management approach. Additionally, a counselor with a background in psychology will be available to students with psycho-social and family issues that impact academic performance.

Psycho-social counseling focuses upon the entire student including not only academic problems but also non-academic issues such as stress, test anxiety, financial concerns and family problems. BCC's new STEM Resource Center will host career development events and distribute information on financial aid, internships, and scholarships. Two new colleges, BCC and City College, will jointly sponsor research projects, field trips, and family engagement activities for STEM students.

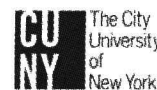
"We feel that this project will be an innovative way to help students achieve their educational objectives. It gives us particular satisfaction to bring these resources to our student population, which has so many challenges," said grant co-authors Dr. Luis Montenegro, Chair of physics and engineering; Dr. Martin Fein, Chair of biology; and Dr. Reid Strieby, Co-Principal Investigator of the BCC Energy Services and Technology Program.

HELP NEW YORKERS PREPARE FOR AND RESPOND TO EMERGENCIES

Start a Bronx Community College Red Cross Campus Club or Include Red Cross Initiatives in Your Existing Club!

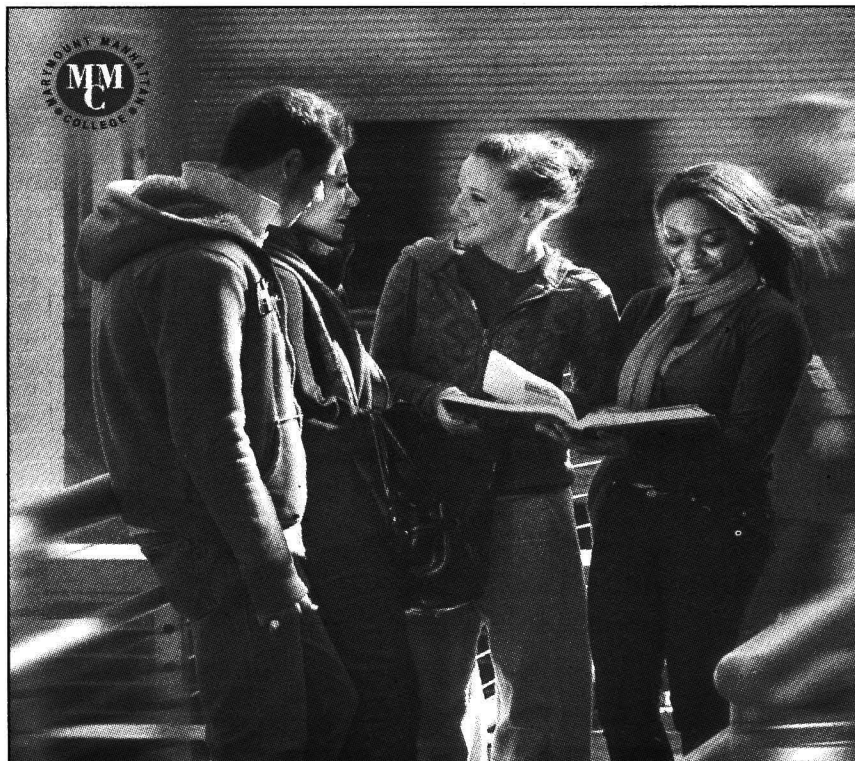


- Provide aid to New Yorkers affected by fires, floods, blackouts and other emergencies in the form of food, shelter, client casework and comfort.
- Train community members to save lives by teaching Red Cross lifesaving courses — Adult/Child/Infant CPR, First Aid, Caregiving and more.
- Prepare your community to cope with emergencies by teaching the basics of emergency preparedness.
- Support International Red Cross disaster response initiatives.
- Provide leadership for the Red Cross Youth Services program.



A partnership program between the City University of New York and the American Red Cross in Greater New York.

Take the first step now —
visit www.bcc.cuny.edu/studentlife
or contact Manny Lopez at 718.289.5962



COME TO OUR OPEN HOUSE MARCH 21

With small classes, respected professors, flexible full- and part-time scheduling, and a convenient campus on Manhattan's Upper East Side, Marymount Manhattan is on your side.

TRANSFER TODAY TUESDAYS

An instant admission decision as fast-paced as NYC itself.

- Every Tuesday through May 27th

SPRING OPEN HOUSE

- Saturday, March 21 at 11 am

experienceforalifetime

Register at www.mmm.edu/visit or call 1-800-MARYMOUNT

MarymountManhattan
a college of the liberal arts

221 East 71st Street, New York | www.mmm.edu



GIVING CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE.

WHEN YOU TRANSFER TO MERCY COLLEGE, YOU'LL RECEIVE A SEAMLESS TRANSITION OF YOUR COLLEGE CREDITS, ENSURING THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CREDITS POSSIBLE TOWARDS A DEGREE YOU'LL BE PROUD OF.

Attend our Spring Admissions OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, March 21 • 10am - 1pm

Visit any of our five campuses.

RSVP online at www.mercy.edu

**MERCY
COLLEGE**
Distinguish Yourself.™
www.mercy.edu • 1-877-MERCY-GO

Get started today. Apply online at mercy.edu.

At Mercy College you'll receive an affordable and personalized education from a prestigious institution that will shape your education and your career.

- Over 90 undergraduate and graduate degree programs and over 25 degrees offered online.
- Faculty that includes Fulbright Scholars and award-winning authors.
- Highly competitive Division II athletics.
- Competitive tuition—grants, scholarships and financial assistance available.
- Day, evening, weekend and online courses.
- Prestigious honors program.

Welcome to B.C.C.

A.N.S.W.E.R. CLUB
ANIME/MANGA CLUB
ALPHA BETA GAMMA
BUSINESS CLUB
CARIBBEAN CLUB
CHRISTIAN CLUB
COBRA
THE COMMUNICATOR (College Newspaper)
CREATIVE WRITING CLUB
DANCE WORKSHOP
DOMINICAN STUDENTS CLUB
HISTORY CLUB
HUMAN SERVICES CLUB
ITALIAN CLUB
LIFE SUSTAINABILITY CLUB
MEDIA TECHNOLOGY & FILM SOCIETY
MUSLIM STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
NURSING CLUB
PARALEGAL SOCIETY
PHI THETA KAPPA
SECULAR HUMANISM CLUB
SOCIETY OF PLASTICS ENGINEERS
SPANISH CLUB
SPEECH, DRAMA, & DEBATE TEAM
STUDENT WORLD ASSEMBLY
THEATER WORKSHOP
TRUTH CLUB

GET INVOLVED IN CAMPUS LIFE &
JOIN A CLUB!

CLUB MEMBERSHIP ENHANCES
THE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE WITH:

- ✓ OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE
MANY ACADEMIC PROGRAMS &
MAJORS
- ✓ PROFESSIONAL & SOCIAL
NETWORKING
- ✓ NUMEROUS LEADERSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES
- ✓ SCHOOL SPIRIT
- ✓ COMMUNITY SERVICE
- ✓ TRANSFERABLE SKILLS
- ✓ CROSS-CULTURAL COMPETENCE
- ✓ OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP OTHERS
- ✓ DOCUMENTED WORK EXPERIENCE
- ✓ MEMORIES & FRIENDSHIP
- ✓ AND MUCH MORE!

For more information about joining or starting a club, contact the
Inter-Organizational Council office:

Roscoe Brown Student Center, room 309

(718) 289-5201/5962

www.bcc.cuny.edu/studentlife



Make the most of your time at BCC.

**Become a Member of the
Student Government Association!**

**The 2009 Student Government Association
Elections are Fast Approaching!**

**Application Filing Period: Monday, March 9
through Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at 5:00 pm**

www.bcc.cuny.edu/StudentLife

BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

For more information, please contact
the Office of Student Life at 718-289-5194.

Join The Communicator Team!

See your name in print • Express your views
Put your finger on the pulse of the
BBC community.

The Communicator is looking for Writers, Graphic Designers,
Photographers,
and Advertising Representatives.
Use your writing and reporting skills.

Become part of our team. Join *The Communicator* today.

Come to Colson 605 to fill out an application, or call us at 718.289.5314.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH FILM SERIES
FEATURING THE DOCUMENTARY

Iron Ladies of Liberia



Tuesday, March 31, 2009
12-2 pm @ RBSC 207

A TALK BACK SESSION WITH DIRECTOR DANIEL JUNG &
PRODUCER MICAH SCHAEFFER WILL FOLLOW THE SCREENING

Women's History Month is a collaborative effort of the National Center for Educational Alliances, the Center for Tolerance and Understanding, the Department of History, and the Office of Student Life.

BRONX
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

OCD CREDIT IS AVAILABLE
FOR THIS PROGRAM

FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE OF
STUDENT LIFE AT 718-289-5194.

Join *The Communicator* Team!

Cover campus news events
Explore local, state, national and global stories
Put your finger on the pulse of the BCC community

The Communicator is looking for
Writers • Photographers • Advertising representatives

Become part of our time, and join *The Communicator* today!

Contact us at 718.289.5314 to schedule an appointment.

*Join
a
Club*

Poetry Corner

All poems are by Mohammed Meishanu.

Readleer

READ! What do I read when I do not know how.

READ! That is a command. Reading makes a person
Poderoso. The illiterate persons said to themselves we are
Going to be literate and they started by reading below their age

And literacy level y voila! They are able to read and it
Made them muy poderoso. They started below them and
They said podemos and didn't look back, they pressed on.
Oh, do you remember when they spelled lafter and they
Were told, it was spelled l-a-u-g-h-t-e-r, they banked and
Wanted to know more about the other words until they
Were S-A-T-I-S-F-I-E-D, WOW even that was banked?

And the hunger for more was k-i-n-d-l-e-d and more
Was there for them and they kept going for more
And more and more was given them.

They kept banking them and their vocabulary
Kept burgeoning and everywhere they were
People were impressed with all that they have saved.

Now they could spell and write WE ARE
WORKING HARD Y WE ARE NOT THE SAME
AGAIN.

See! Who ever said hard work was not rewarded and

It was so easy we feel like we wasted a lot of time

Being afraid of trying. Now we can spell C-O-N-G-

R-A-T-U-L-A-T-I-O-N. We are able to raise our

Heads up and our voices can be heard this time, we can use
Vocabularies that We banked and can use them properly now,
people who knew us to be

Estupido before are wondering how did they
Accomplish that? We worked hard, MEN! That's how.

We are able to go where we never dared before
Porque, leemos poder.

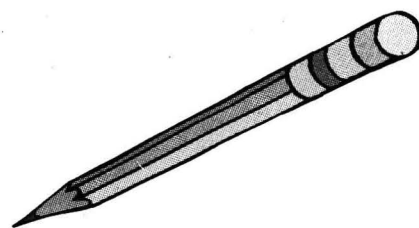
Readers hold all the powers and if you can't read LOS PODEROSOS
don't want to share their

Secret or their power with you. After all how are we

Going to handle it if we can't leer (READ)?

Juntos podemos, nos y nuestros profesores.

READ, LEER, READ! It is a command!



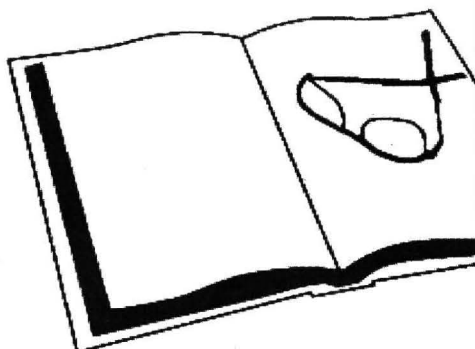
Idyllic Place

Clear shimmering waters meandering
Along green mossy stones like toads.
Companions for the fish swimming.
The idyllic banks with the tall reeds.

All beneath towering
majestic mountains.
The tall and proud trees like
giant parasols,
With their shady canopies over the
waters below
The cascading greens awash the sides of
the mountains

The refreshing breeze cools all around
The quiet rippling sound
Made by the gulping fish
Touches the bank reedish.

The artist and his easel daubing away
He keeps wondering what
splendor array
Is this the work of a marvelous artist?
Yes the work of the master artist.



The Long Goodbye

The last time I saw her
We kissed goodbye.
A very beautiful goodbye
We were tied together by the girdle of Venus
As if we were one entity
Really that's what we've become in unity

The last time I saw her
The goodbye kiss was passionate
In those luscious lips glows emanate
We both had closed our eyes
Lost in each other and the kiss
Found in the passion of the byes

When the cab honked we came down to earth
Oh! We were lost in the kiss so ardent.
Such passion, why even the goodbye?
Anyway it was time to say goodbye.
So we had another long passionate kiss
This time with drops of tears.

And when we parted nobody looked back
Because of that thing about karma or is it luck
We will cherish the last one

Making History HERSTORY

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2009 OPENING CEREMONY*

12-2 PM

Brown Student Center, rooms 207/208

Please join us for this exciting Women's History Month Opening Ceremony and find out how to get involved with the month's events. The ceremony will include the official unveiling of the 2009 Candidates for the Women's Virtual Hall of Fame along with a panel of distinguished international women to discuss their global peace efforts in a discussion called *When Humanity Prevails*. A brief reception will follow the program.

*OCD credit is available for this program.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2009 FILM: *All of Us**

12-2 PM

Brown Student Center, rooms 207/208

This timely feature documentary investigates the social factors that put African American women at the greatest risk for HIV/AIDS and exposes the common power struggle that women across boundaries of race, class and country face every night in the bedroom. The goal of this film is to reach women at risk with life-saving information and to provide educators, activists and policy-makers with an effective media tool for social change. A talk back session with Director Emily Abt will follow the film.

*OCD credit is available for this program.

MARCH 3-12, 2009 2009 WOMEN'S VIRTUAL HALL OF FAME ELECTIONS – VOTE!

Beginning on March 3, 2009 and running through March 12, 2009, you can vote for your Women's Virtual Hall of Fame candidates of choice. The campus community will have the opportunity to vote for one candidate in each of the following categories: Women from the Past, American or International; American Women from the Present, currently living and citizens of the United States; and International Women from the Present, currently living and non-citizens of the United States.

Special information sheets highlighting the achievements of each of the candidates, as well as ballots for voting, will be available in the lobby of the Brown Student Center and in the Office of Student Life (102 Brown Student Center) during the 10-day election period.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2009 CLOSING CEREMONY*

12-2 PM

Brown Student Center, rooms 207/208

The program will feature the induction of the 2009 Women's Virtual Hall of Fame, student presentations, and a storyteller from *Pearls of Wisdom*, Elders Share the Arts touring ensemble of storytellers and urban folk artists. Dr. Kate Culkin will make a special presentation, *Behind Every Man... Women's History Hidden in the Hall of Fame*. A brief reception will follow the program.

*OCD credit is available for this program.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2009 FILM: *Iron Ladies of Liberia**

12-2 PM

Brown Student Center, room 207

After 14 years of a brutal civil war, Liberia elects its first female president – Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, nicknamed the Iron Lady. With her predominately female cabinet, President Johnson Sirleaf struggles during her first year in office to rebuild a war-ravaged country, fight rampant corruption and prevent a descent back into war. A talk back session with Director Daniel Junge and Producer Micah Schaffer will follow the film. *OCD credit is available for this program.

*OCD credit is available for these programs.

Women's History Month is a collaborative effort of the National Center for Educational Alliances, the Center for Tolerance and Understanding, the Department of History, and the Office of Student Life.

BRONX
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

**WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION
MARCH 2009**